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Aug 29th 2018

Via ECFS Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1

Dear FCC,

I have an internet provider & phone service with Sonic, a company who is a competitive provider. Before a competitive provider was available, there was only one company my community was forced to use. I chose not to have internet, because the only provider in town represented NO choice & less than desirable & far less than competent customer service.

Two providers is at least a choice & I waited over a year for Sonic to be a choice for me to do business with. My phone service improved and cost less than the only company in town. I live in a rural area, where choices are frustratingly few. To have broadband makes running my business far easier now & is much more efficient. It's a big improvement over the former DSL where I had internet service at my home.

Ever since I was given a choice of providers, my service has improved, customer service is actually providing helpful, respectful, on-the-spot service I can now count on. Phone prices are considerably less than what I used to pay before I had a choice of a competitive provider, there have been no increases in cost & phone & internet are now affordable.

This is not the way it would be without competition, I can guarantee that! I have no intention to returning to disrespectful "customer service" that isn't even technically helpful, with high prices, no choices & having more difficulty running my business efficiently & it being cost effective. Competition needs access to infrastructure to keep competition alive & well.

PHYLLIS BALA